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Attorney's Docket No.: 17601-042001/067083.0229



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Douglas P. Seams
Serial No. : 10/723,322
Filed : November 26, 2003
Title : METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR EXTRACTION OF RESOURCES FROM A
SUBTERRANEAN WELL BORE

Art Unit : 3672
Examiner : Unknown

Mail Stop: Petitions
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.102(c)

Applicant previously submitted a Petition to Make Special under 37 C.F.R. §1.102(c), dated March 29, 2004, requesting that the examination of this Application be advanced based on the ability of the invention to materially contribute to the development or conservation of energy resources. The Examiner dismissed the previous petition as insufficient because it did not provide a detailed explanation of how the invention meets the criteria for granting a petition to make special specified in M.P.E.P. §708.02(vi). In response to the dismissal, Applicant submits this renewed Petition to Make Special and respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's decision denying the previous Petition to Make Special.

37 C.F.R §1.102(c) allows advancement of examination for applications wherein the invention will materially contribute to the development of energy resources. In addressing petitions in this category, M.P.E.P. §708.02(vi) notes that such a petition "should be accompanied by statements ... explaining how the invention materially contributes to [the discovery or development of energy resources." The same section further provides examples of inventions in this category, including developments in fossil fuels (natural gas, coal, and petroleum).

The invention of the present Application relates to an improved technique for extracting energy resources from a subterranean well bore. As noted in the specification of the present Application, "gas [i.e., natural gas] is used herein as an example resource available from a coal region...; however, the teachings of the present invention may be applicable to any resource

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available from a subterranean zone that may be extracted using a well bore” (p. 7, line 29 – p. 8, line 3). Thus, the invention is clearly applicable to fossil fuels. Various embodiments of the invention provide improved resource production. As noted in the specification of the present application, “according to certain embodiments, resource production from a well bore is improved by an efficient removal of water and obstructive materials” (p. 3, line 31 – p. 4, line 2. See also p. 18, lines 8-14). It is further noted that “in certain embodiments, efficiency of gas production may be improved in []coal beds by increasing the permeability of parts of the coal by providing controlled collapse of a portion of the coal or other forms of stress relief in portions of the coal” (p. 4, lines 5-9; p. 9, lines 5-10. See also p. 15, lines 16-25; p. 17, lines 7-11; p. 18, lines 2-8). The specification also states that “in particular embodiments, a drainage well bore having a flatter curvature may be used to efficiently produce resources by angling the drainage well bore downward relative to the horizontal in the coal seam” (p. 4, lines 13-16; p. 9, lines 12-14; see also p. 7, lines 14-17). For at least these reasons, the invention of the present Application materially contributes to the development of energy resources (and particularly fossil fuels), and as such, meets the requirements for advancement of examination specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.102(c) and M.P.E.P. §708.02(vi). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully petitions for the present Applicant to be made special and for the examination of this application to be advanced under 37 C.F.R. §1.102(c).

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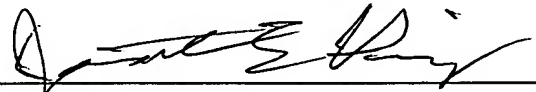
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CONCLUSION

Applicant has demonstrated that the present Application meets the requirements to be made special under 37 C.F.R. §1.102(c). Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action on this petition. No fee is due for this petition to make special filed under in 37 C.F.R. §1.102(c). If any other charges or credits are due, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/20/04


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